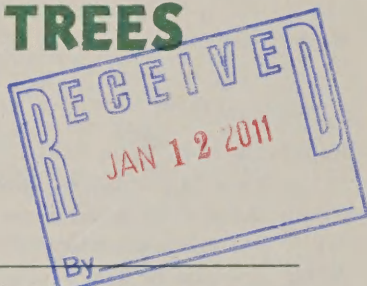


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UNITED STATES STANDARDS
FOR
CHRISTMAS TREES



EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 1957



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES STANDARDS FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

(22 F.R. 7767)

Effective November 1, 1957

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AUTHORITY: §§ 51.3085 to 51.3103 issued under sec. 205, 60 Stat. 1090, as amended; 7 U. S. C. 1624.

GENERAL

§ 51.3085 *General.* The standards contained in this subpart are applicable to sheared or unsheared trees of the coniferous species which are normally marketed as Christmas trees. The large majority of the Christmas trees marketed are one of the following species: Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*); Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*); Black spruce (*Picea mariana*); Eastern Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*); White spruce (*Picea glauca*); Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestria*); Norway spruce (*Picea excelsa*); Red pine (*Pinus resinosa*); Eastern White pine (*Pinus alba*); and Red spruce (*Picea rubens*).

GRADES

§ 51.3086 *Grades.* (a) The grades for Christmas trees shall be U. S. Premium, U. S. No. 1 and U. S. No. 2. Each tree shall possess the characteristics typical of the species and meet the minimum requirements for each factor of the grade specified as shown in Table I:

TABLE I

Factor	U. S. Premium	U. S. No. 1	U. S. No. 2
Density.....	Medium.....	Medium.....	Light.
Taper.....	Normal.....	Normal (flaring or candlestick if tree is otherwise U. S. Premium).	Normal (flaring or candlestick if tree is otherwise U. S. No. 1).
Balance.....	4 complete faces.....	3 complete faces.....	2 complete faces.
Foliage.....	Fresh, clean and healthy..	Fresh, clean and healthy..	Fresh, fairly clean, and free from damage.
Deformities.....	Not more serious than minor.	Not more serious than minor (noticeable deformities permitted if tree is otherwise U. S. Premium).	Not more serious than minor (noticeable deformities permitted if tree is otherwise U. S. No. 1).

TOLERANCES

(b) In addition, the butt of each tree shall be smoothly cut and all side branches below the first whorl shall have been removed.

(c) Unless otherwise specified, the length of the handle shall approximate 1¼ inches for each foot of tree height.

§ 51.3087 *Tolerances.* (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by count, of the trees in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade, but not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed.

for trees which fail to meet the requirements of the next grade lower than that specified.

CULLS

§ 51.3088 *Culls*. "Culls" consist of individual Christmas trees which fail to meet the requirements of any of the foregoing grades.

SIZE

§ 51.3089 *Size*. (a) In addition to the statement of grade, the height of the tree shall be stated in terms of one foot or two foot units. The following are examples of height designations which are commonly used:

- 4 feet or less.
- 4-6 feet.
- 6-7 feet or 6-8 feet.
- 7-8 feet.
- 8-10 feet.
- 10 feet and up.

(b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 10 percent, by count, of the trees in any lot may fail to meet the height specified.

BASIS FOR CALCULATING PERCENTAGES

§ 51.3090 *Basis for calculating percentages*. Percentages shall be calculated on the basis of count using the individual tree as the unit. Trees are often tied in bundles for convenience in handling and shipping and to prevent excessive drying. In obtaining the sample for inspection, representative bundles should be selected. All the trees within the bundle or any portion of them may be used for inspection.

STANDARD BUNDLES

§ 51.3091 *Standard bundles*. (a) Any lot of trees may be specified as standard bundles when each bundle contains trees of the same species and the number and height of the trees conforms to the following requirements as set forth in Table II:

Height of tree:	Number of trees per bundle
2 feet and less.....	10-12
2-4 feet.....	7-8
4-6 feet.....	5-6
6-7 feet.....	4
6-8 feet.....	3-4
7-8 feet.....	3
8-10 feet.....	2
over 10 feet.....	1

(b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than 10 percent, by count, of the bundles in any lot may fail to meet the requirements for Standard Bundles.

DEFINITIONS

§ 51.3092 *Density*. "Density" means the amount of foliage present. Factors contributing to the degree of density are: The number and size of branches within the whorl, distance between whorls, number and arrangement of branchlets on each branch, the extent of internodal branching, needle arrangement and needle length. Species differ in their habit of growth and some species do not have internodal branches. Density should be judged on the basis of species characteristics.

§ 51.3093 *Taper*. "Taper" means the relationship of the width of the tree to its height. Flaring, normal, and candlestick taper are the terms used to designate degrees of taper. Flaring taper means, for trees other than the genus *Pinus*, that the general shape of the tree, on its best side, forms a cone the base of which is more than 70 percent of its height, and for the genus *Pinus*, the base of the cone is more than 90 percent of its height. If the base of the cone, for trees other than the genus *Pinus*, is from 40 to 70 percent, and for the genus *Pinus*, is from 40 to 90 percent, the tree has normal taper. If the base of the cone is less than 40 percent of its height, the tree has candlestick taper. Taper must be scored on the basis of species characteristic. The taper of some species forms a cone whereas the taper of other species more nearly resembles a teardrop.

§ 51.3094 *Balance*. "Balance" means the overall structure of the tree. Each tree shall be considered to have four quarters or faces; also three segments, namely bottom branches, the middle and the top. A decided gap, unduly long branches, or noticeably uneven density in any of the segments make a defective face. Balance must be considered on the basis of species characteristics. Some species characteristically have branches uniformly spaced in the whorl. Other species characteristically have irregular number and spacing of branches in the whorl.

§ 51.3095 *Fresh*. "Fresh" means that the needles are pliable and turgid. Needles shall be generally firmly attached with only a slight amount or no shattering.

§ 51.3096 *Clean*. "Clean" means that the tree is practically free from moss, lichen growth, vines or other foreign material.

§ 51.3097 *Healthy*. "Healthy" means that the foliage possesses a thrifty, fresh, natural appearance characteristic of the species.

§ 51.3098 *Fairly clean*. "Fairly clean" means that the tree is moderately free from moss, lichen growth, vines or other foreign material.

§ 51.3099 *Damage*. "Damage" means any defect which materially affects the appearance of the foliage of the tree. The following shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Noticeable presence of galls on the branches;
- (b) Abnormal loss of needles;
- (c) Abnormal curling of needles;
- (d) Noticeable presence of dead twigs; and,
- (e) Discoloration of needles when present to an extent that causes the tree to appear "spotty".

§ 51.3100 *Minor deformities*. "Minor deformities" means defects which are not particularly noticeable and which do not affect the general appearance of the tree. Such defects include slight crooks and forks in the stem. Some species of *Pinus* frequently have curved stems. A curved stem on trees of these species shall be considered as a minor deformity when the condition is readily apparent and affects the general appearance of the tree.

§ 51.3101 *Noticeable deformities*. "Noticeable deformities" means defects which affect the appearance to some extent, but which do not seriously affect the appearance. Such defects include weak branches, multiple leaders, broken branches, barren lower whorl and curved stems.

§ 51.3102 *Handle*. "Handle" means the base of the tree trunk below the first whorl.

§ 51.3103 *Height*. "Height" for un-sheared trees means the distance from the point of attachment of the lowest whorl to a point at which the longest branch in the top whorl, when bent upward touches the central leader of the tree; and for sheared trees means the distance from the point of attachment of the lowest whorl to the top of the central leader.

The United States Standards for Christmas Trees contained in this subpart shall become effective 30 days after publication hereof in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Dated: September 25, 1957.

ROY W. LENNARTSON,
Deputy Administrator,
Marketing Services.

[F. R. Doc. 57-8032; Filed, Sept. 30, 1957;
8:47 a. m.]

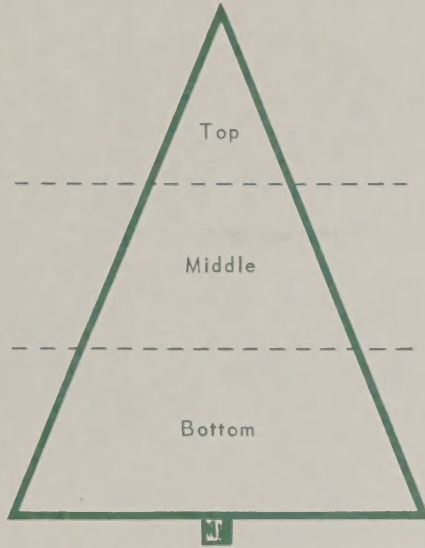


Fig. 1

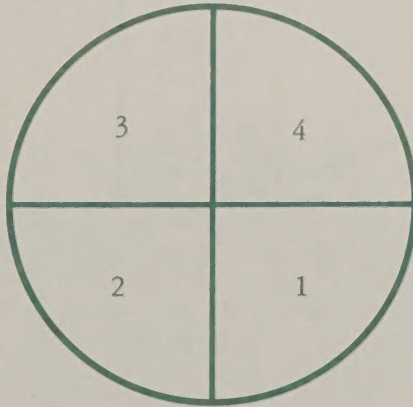
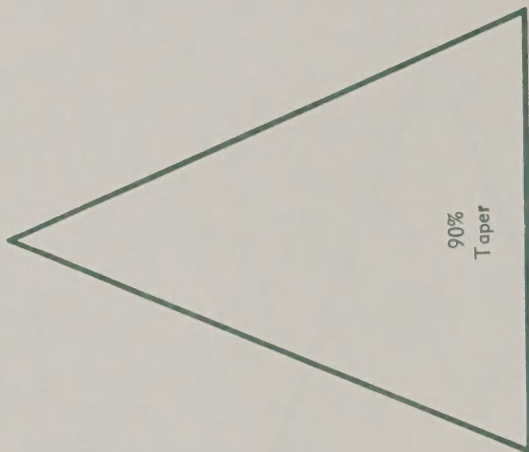
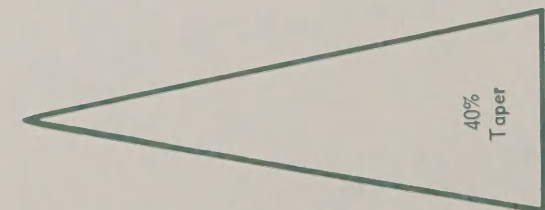


Fig. 2

BN-4936

SEGMENTS of a tree (*Fig. 1*) and
QUARTERS or **FACES** of a tree (*Fig. 2*)



less than 40% Candlestick
 40 - 70% Normal (Fir, Spruce, and genera other than Pinus)
 40 - 90% Normal (Pinus)
 more than 70% Flaring (Fir, Spruce, and genera other than Pinus)
 more than 90% Flaring (Pinus)

CHRISTMAS TREE TAPER



BN-4939

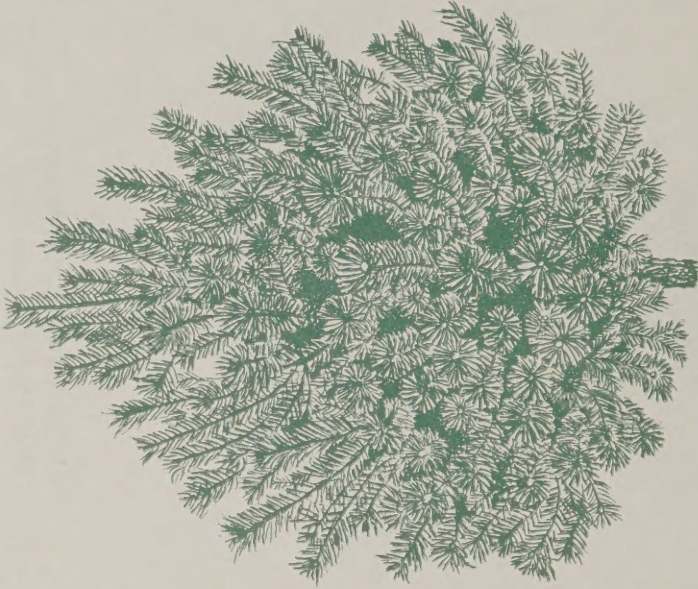
LOWER LIMIT MEDIUM DENSITY
for trees of the genus *Pinus*



BN-4852

LOWER LIMIT MEDIUM DENSITY
for trees other than the genus *Pinus*

BN-4943



TYPICAL SHAPE OF SHEARED TREE
of the genus *Pinus*

BN-4944



LOWER LIMIT LIGHT DENSITY



BN-4942

NOTICEABLE DEFORMITY
crook in stem



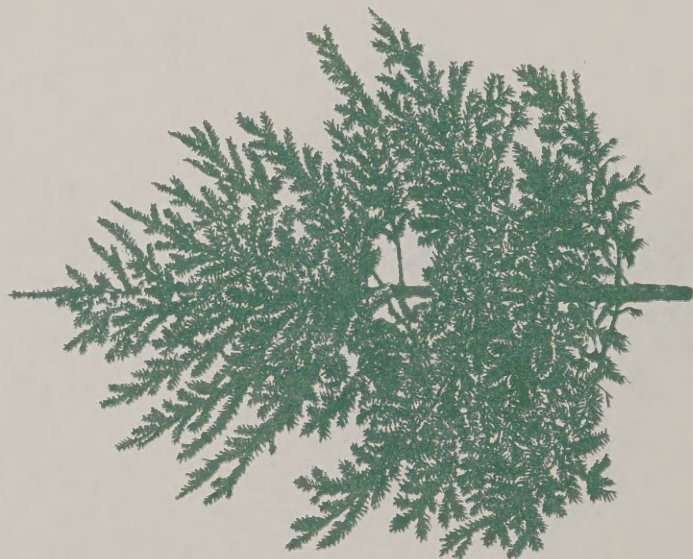
BN-4940

MINOR DEFORMITY
slight crook in stem



BN-4945

NOTICEABLE DEFORMITIES
multiple leaders and
incomplete whorl



BN-4913

NOTICEABLE DEFORMITY
hole in crown



BN-4914

NOTICEABLE DEFORMITY
barren lower whorl

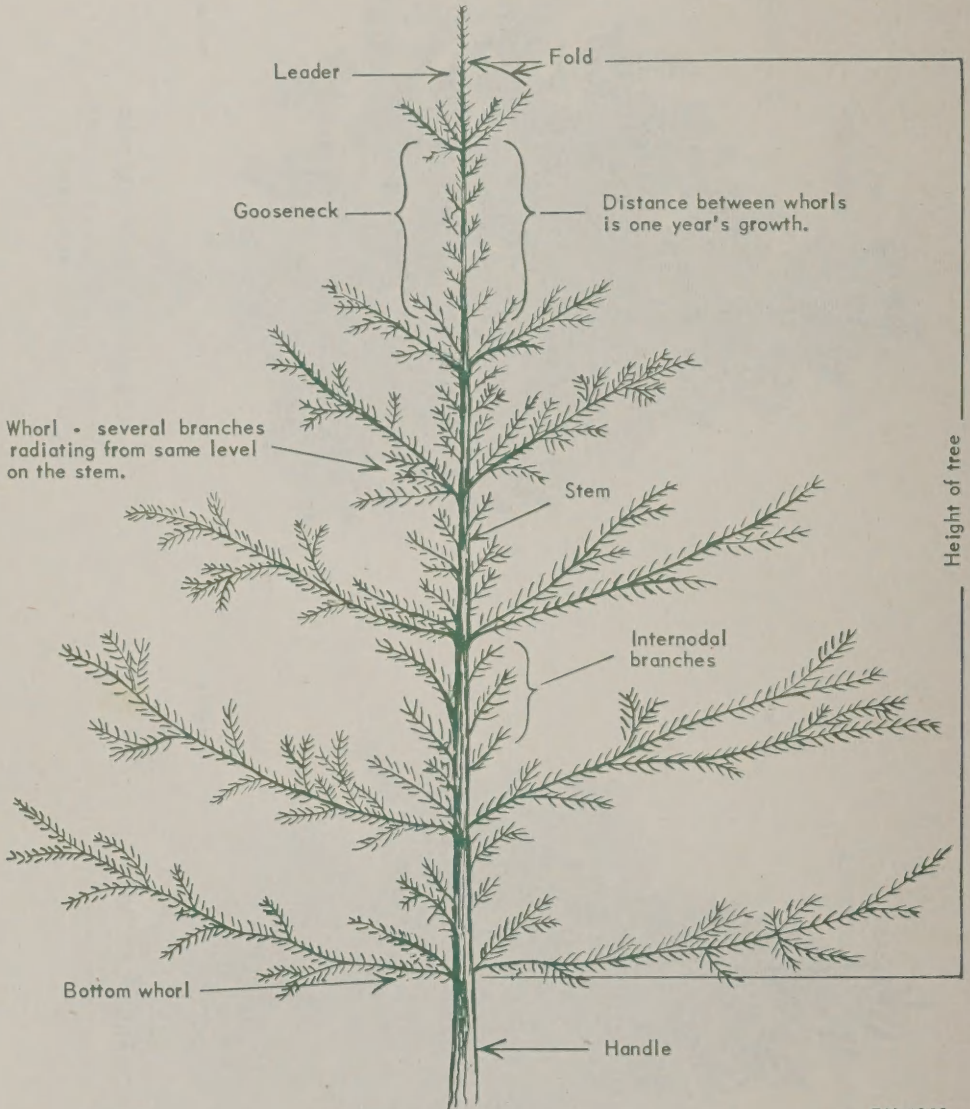


BN-4941

NOTICEABLE DEFORMITIES
curved stem and lack of symmetry
of tree of the genus *Pinus*



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BN-4938

CHRISTMAS TREE TERMINOLOGY